

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 25, 2005. Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9-11 and 13-19 are presented for examination, of which Claims 3, 7, 10 and 14-18 are in independent form. Claims 1, 5, 8 and 12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claim 19 has been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 3, 7, 10 and 14 have been amended to incorporate the recitations of Claims 1, 5, 8 and 12, respectively. Claims 2 and 4 have been amended to depend from allowable Claim 3; Claim 6 has been amended to depend from allowable Claim 7; Claims 9 and 11 have been amended to depend from allowable Claim 10; and Claim 13 has been amended to depend from allowable Claim 14. Claims 16 and 17 have been amended to correct claim dependency. Claim 18 has been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 4 and 11 have been amended to replace the term “with” with “without” because original Claims 4 and 11 used the term “without,” but this term was inadvertently changed to “with” in the previous amendment. Favorable reconsideration is requested

The specification has been amended to conform the Summary of Invention section to the amended claims.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 3, 7, 10 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim.¹ Since these claims have been so rewritten, they are now believed to be in condition for allowance. In addition, since Claims 2, 4, 6, 9, 11 and 13 have been rewritten so as to depend from one of the allowable Claims 3, 7, 10 and

¹/ The Office Action states that “Claims 3, 7, 10 and 14 are objected to as containing allowable subject matter.” Applicant assumes that what is meant is that those claims would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim.

14, it is believed that these claims are also allowable for the same reasons as are Claims 3, 7, 10 and 14.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 11-13 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,943,140 (Monroe). Claims 16-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Monroe in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,888,796 (Iizuka).

As an initial matter, Applicant notes that the filing date of Iizuka is later than the filing date of the present application and is, therefore, not prior art. Accordingly, not even a prima facie case of unpatentability has been established with respect to Claims 16-18.

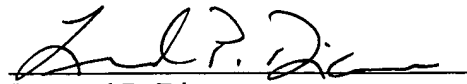
Further, in view of the above-discussed amendments, Applicant submits that the rejected claims are clearly patentable over the cited prior art.

New Claim 19 is a computer readable memory claim corresponding to allowable method Claim 7 and is, therefore, believed allowable for the same reasons as is Claim 7. Claim 15 is a computer readable memory claim corresponding to allowable method Claim 3 and is, therefore, believed allowable for the same reasons as is Claim 7.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "L. P. Diana", written over a horizontal line.

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